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FORM DS 322(OCR)

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AF/E:HRMELONE:SM EXT. 28852  
02/5/73  
AF:DDNEWSOM

AF/E:WBCOOTE  
EUR/SOV:MR. KADILIS {SUBS}  
PM/ISO:COL. FLEMINGS  
ACDA:{INFO}

DOD/ISA:MR. BADER  
AF/RA:MR. NAVEZ  
PM/MAS: MR. MADDEN

ROUTINE

ADDIS ABABA

ROUTINE

BONN, LONDON, MOGADISCIO, MOSCOW, NAIROBI, PARIS,  
ROME, TEL AVIV, ASMARA, RUSNAAA/USCINCEUR

SUBK#J: IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. POLICY OF SOMALI THREAT TO  
ETHIOPIA

REF: ADDIS 782; MOGADISCIO 1642 {NOTAL}

1. DEPT, DOD AND OTHER AGENCIES HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY  
DURING AMB. ADAIR'S CONSULTATIONS TO DISCUSS AT LENGTH  
WITH HIM SUBSTANCE OF ADDIS REFTEL. GENERAL REACTIONS  
TO REFTEL'S ESTIMATES AND SUGGESTIONS ARE BRIEFLY TOUCHED  
UPON BELOW.

2. IN GENERAL, WE AGREE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF ETHIOPIAN  
ATTITUDE TOWARD SITUATION. WE BELIEVE RESURGENCE SOMALI  
IRREDENTISM IN OGADEN MORE LIKELY THAN DIRECT SOMALI  
AGGRESSION. DESPITE INCREASED SOVIET SHIPMENTS OF ARMS  
TO SOMALIA, WE SHARE MOGADISCIO REFTEL {AND FRENCH} DOUBTS  
THAT SOVIETS WOULD ENCOURAGE SOMALIS TO TAKE ON ETHIOPIA.  
YOU MAY WISH TO REAFFIRM THIS TO ETHIOPIANS AND, IN VIEW  
OF GOOD RELATIONS IEG MAINTAINS WITH SOVIETS, TO SUGGEST  
THAT IF ETHIOPIANS ARE AS CONCERNED ABOUT ARMS SHIPMENTS  
AS THEY TELL US, IEG WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO TAKE UP  
MATTER DIRECTLY WITH SOVIET {AS WELL AS SOMALI} GOVERN-  
MENT. YOU MAY WISH REITERATE OUR VIEW THAT NOTWITHSTAND-  
ING SOMALI EQUIPMENT IMPROVEMENTS IN SOME CATEGORIES,  
IEG REMAINS QUALITATIVELY SUPERIOR. SOMALIS CONTINUE TO  
BE SERIOUSLY HAMPERED BY POOR LOGISTICS AND MAINTENANCE.  
WHEN COUPLED WITH IEG'S INTERIOR LINE ADVANTAGE, IEG STILL

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DECLASSIFIED

PA/HO Department of State

E.O. 12958, as amended

May 4, 2006

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CAPABLE THWARTING POSSIBLE SOMALI ATTACK.

3. WHILE WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO URGE ETHIOPIANS, KENYANS AND SOMALIS TO BE MODERATE AND TO MAINTAIN THEIR DIALOGUE, WE DO NOT WISH TO ASSUME ROLE OF PRINCIPAL KEEPER OF THE PEACE IN HORN OF AFRICA. WE BELIEVE, RATHER, THAT SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES THERE IS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE, GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTLY AFFECTED.

4. ALL THIS IS NOT TO SAY WE INSENSITIVE TO ETHIOPIAN AND EMBASSY CONCERN ABOUT MAP LEVEL AND TO GROWING PRESSURES FOR HIGH LEVEL MEETING. UPON HIS RETURN TO ADDIS, AMBASSADOR WILL BE ABLE DESCRIBE TO EMBASSY CURRENT WASHINGTON THINKING ON THESE AND OTHER SUBJECTS RAISED IN REFTEL. YY

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